(ii) bring the use of ultrasound machines within the purview of this Act to explicitly curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus;

(iii) introduce State level Supervisory Board;

(iv) constitute a multi member State Appropriate Authority for better implementation and monitoring of the Act;

(v) make punishments more stringent;

(vi) make it mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus;

(vii) restrict sale of ultrasound machines only to registered bodies.

Further, action has been taken to amend the Rules to, *inter alia*, provide for appeals against the decisions of the Appropriate Authority at sub-district and district levels, code of conduct for the persons working in registered clinics etc., restrict sale of ultrasound machines to registered clinics, utilisation of registration fees for implementation of the Act and Rules, etc.

Finally, in compliance to the orders of the Supreme Court, meetings of Appropriate Authorities, training of implementing agencies on investigative procedures and various IEC activities to create public awareness have been undertaken.

Law to regulate surrogate mother and test tube baby

†*275. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no law exists in the country for regulating the methods like "surrogate mother" and "test tube baby", which are widely prevalent in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact any law for regulating these methods;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when such a Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) At present, there is no law existing in the country for regulating methods for surrogate mothers and test tube babies. However, the Indian Council of Medical Research along with the National Academy of Medical Sciences have prepared Draft Guidelines for Accreditation, Regulation and supervision of Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) Clinics which have recently been released for public debate.

The Draft Guidelines broadly address the issues related to the infrastructure required; skill mix and human resource required; ethical issues related to the recipients; redressal mechanism etc. The main objective of the guidelines is to standardize the quality of services being provided in the ART clinics.

At present the Government has no intention of enacting any law on the subject.

Action to check unplanned growth of Urban Areas

*276. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to check unplanned and uncontrolled growth in urban areas; and

(b) the reforms Government are contemplating for development of urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):(a) and (b) Urban Development is a State subject. It is, therefore, the responsibility of States to check unplanned and uncontrolled growth in urban areas.

Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation supplements the efforts of State Governments through policy formulation, technical guidance and central assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for urban development.